



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

City Council ponders using goats for Horizon Park shoreline

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

"I don't want to be fishing goats out of the lake," said Belleville City Manager / Police Chief Dave Robinson as his first response to Councilman Ken Voigt's idea to look at goats to clean up the shoreline at Horizon Park.

Then, he agreed to reach out to the city of Ann Arbor, where goats are being used to trim parks, and to talk to the Downtown Development Authority and find out when the shoreline has last been trimmed and who's responsible. If it's in a contract with the DDA, he wants to look at it.

Councilman Voigt began his remarks at the beginning of the meeting, saying he would like to address the condition of Horizon Park.

He said the park is in really abysmal condition and during the recent Belleville Lake Fest, "I felt like I spent half my time apologizing for it... It's in pretty bad condition... If you pulled up in a boat, it looks like the park is abandoned..."

Councilman Voigt said Randy Brown suggested using goats to clean up the shore. Ann Arbor does that, he said, and it would be less expensive than having to pay a crew. He asked the administration to look into this immediately and to determine who pays, the city or the DDA.

Voigt said Brown has one vendor and Voigt found one in Coldwater.

DPW Director Rick Rutherford said the last time the city got the steep shoreline trimmed, the vendor said he's never doing it again. Director Rutherford said he loves the goat concept.

He said when you go over the 655 lake contour line it's almost straight down. Last time he inquired the cost was quoted as \$5,000, so if they go out for costs they will need sealed bids.

Councilman Tom Fielder said the city partnered with Van Buren Township on trimming at one time but he doesn't know

who paid.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said the DDA paid for it. She said besides getting a quote she would like to find out what kind of liability they have if they lose the goats. She said the DDA's lawn-cutting vendor was supposed to be out there on Wednesday.

City Manager Robinson said they were out on Monday before the festival and said they will make an effort to cut the parks on Wednesdays. He said he talked with the vendor about the weed-whipping they are missing. He said a lawn can be perfectly short and without weed whipping it looks bad.

"I will be very interested tomorrow to see if it's done right," he said. "If it doesn't get cut Wednesday, we'll go down Thursday and cut it."

He said the DDA is looking at its contract for grass-cutting and, "I don't want to get their contractor mad at us ... I'll be interested to see their contract."

"We'll cross our fingers and hope," Mayor Conley said.

In other business at the one-hour-and-42-minute July 6 meeting, the council:

- Heard City Manager Robinson announce that Clerk Verna Chapman had tendered her letter of resignation effective July 7 and "is no longer with us." The council unanimously approved removing Chapman's name from the list of official check signatories for city bank accounts and replacing it with the name of Deputy Administrator Tim McLean. Other current signatories are Mayor Conley and Councilman Tom Fielder;

- Discussed returning to in-person meetings, an item put on the agenda by Councilman Tom Fielder. Mayor Conley said before making such a change they have to let the people know in advance and they have to get things in place. This can be discussed and a decision made at

(continued on page 6)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Shane and Melanie Convery of Van Buren Township had a popular booth at Monday's Farmers' Market in Belleville, with much of their home-grown display gone by the time this picture was taken. The couple lives in VBT and farms property in Willis. As the summer progresses, their offerings change. Now the ripe, Michigan tomatoes are a big draw, along with string beans, basil, lettuce and other greens. Shane Convery serves as market master at the weekly market sponsored by the Belleville Central Business Community. Behind them is the weekly Classic Car Show on Main, sponsored by Egan's Pub.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT: Hugo Cardenas, Jr. new Building & Grounds Superintendent

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Hugo Cardenas, Jr., a facilities supervisor at the Washtenaw County Road Commission, was hired by the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees as its new Superintendent of Public Services / Buildings and Grounds at its regular zoom meeting on July 6.

His personal services agreement was unanimously approved by the board and shows he will get an annual salary of \$73,000 starting July 26. Absent and excused from the meeting were Supervisor Kevin McNamara and Clerk Leon Wright. Clerk Sharry Budd presided at the 20-minute meeting.

Cardenas will oversee installation of utility-related equipment, the parks, the township fleet, cemeteries, and custodial operations, among other responsibilities.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and a master of science

degree in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University.

Public Services Director Matthew Best said Cardenas had previous experience in Waterford Township and has served on several committees, including the MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority) and received awards in Health and Safety for Municipal Government.

Best said Cardenas is recognized in the region as one of the best in the business. Best said Cardenas has the skills for the job and he will excel in the job.

Best said Human Resources Director Nicole Sumpter "beat the bushes" for candidates, but Cardenas really wanted to work at VBT.

Cardenas takes the position vacated by former Building and Grounds Superintendent Kristopher Schlutow, who recently was made Water and Sewer Superintendent. Schlutow was hired July 1, 2019 to replace Jeff Fondaw, who had

abruptly resigned.

In other business at the July 6 meeting the board:

- Held a moment of silence in memory of Virgie Stoltz, an active member of the community, who died June 30;

- Unanimously approved, without discussion, support for the Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization in connection with Purdue Pharma Case #19-23649 as it pertains to ongoing opioid litigation;

- Heard Parks Director Jennifer Zaenglein announce the free movie in the park, first scheduled for June 25 during Belleville Lake Fest, will be shown at 9:30 p.m. July 30 at Van Buren Park. The first date was rained out. She said they are trying to get the food trucks back and the "doors" to the park will open at 8 p.m.;

- Heard Director Zaenglein also announce the summer Wednesday free outdoor concerts will be held at Quirk Park at 7 p.m. on July 14, 21, and 28, and free concerts

will be held at 7 p.m. the following two Wednesdays on Aug. 4 and 11 at Wayne County Community College campus on Haggerty Road in the township;

- Heard Fire Chief Dave McNally report that earlier Tuesday he turned in a damage assessment to Wayne County and FEMA on recent flood damage. He said the township had gathered information from 11 township residents and one city resident asking for an evaluation. FEMA will determine if it meets the threshold for funds, Chief McNally said; and

- Heard Steven Dark suggest through zoom that the township form a committee to look at visual aesthetics in the township, including recreation projects, landscapes, and how to deal with blighted properties. He would like to see the group study how to deal with VBT as a whole. Trustee Sherrie Frazier agreed with his proposal. Treasurer Budd told him to give his ideas to Director Best.

School Board approves McBride HVAC project at cost of \$346,000

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education an exception was made to the usual procedure of presenting information on a project at one meeting and then approving it at the next meeting.

On Monday the \$346,000 McBride Middle School HVAC project was presented and approved at the same meeting. There were two reasons. First, Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran said lead time for projects has been extending because of the wait time for necessary items. He said he would like to order as soon as possible.

He said he expects to be able to work on the project in September and October on off hours and weekend work, so as not to interfere with the school sessions. This way they can get the work done before winter

sets in.

The project team selected low bidder of three, Professional Thermal Systems, Inc. at \$291,000 for the base bid scope of work including mechanical, demolition, architectural, steel and roofing work. A second needed condensing unit was added to the project at a cost of \$40,000, along with a project contingency amount of \$15,000, making the total award recommendation of \$346,000.

The second reason for approving the project at once was that the board was considering not holding the July 26 meeting, which would put off the ordering for the project into August, further delaying the work.

Later in the meeting, the board did informally agree to not hold the July 26 meeting due to lack of agenda.

In other business at Monday's 55-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved a three-year agreement with the Van Buren Educational Support Team (VBEST). Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun said there is a completely new pay schedule. He explained the former pay raises went by year, from years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and then there wasn't another raise until year 17. School Supt. Pete Kudlak said this is a much cleaner contract than they had before. Director Madyun also pointed out there are options for insurance and the district can even offer free insurance, but it has a high deductible. Board president Amy Pearce said they hope to attract bus drivers with the new rates. She said a retired person without insurance could take advantage of this;

- Heard results of a parent survey from Supt. Kudlak. He said during the last week of school he put out a quick survey with six simple questions and a couple of questions

requiring comments. He said he sent the comments he received to board members but did not furnish them to the audience. Kudlak said 721 parents responded, representing 1,112 students, with 43.8% remote students, 42.6% in-person students, and 13.6% both. The answers were mostly positive, with great concern shown in the comments on whether or not masks will be required to be worn in school in the fall. Kudlak said he will be sending a survey on masks to parents before any decisions are made for fall; and

- Approved hiring Matthew Wilson as a districtwide Instructional Tech Coach for the 2021-22 school year. He comes to the district from his job as fifth grade teacher at Central Academy, Global Educational Excellence, in Ann Arbor, and before that teaching fifth grade in Phoenix, AZ. He currently is obtaining Google Educator Level 1 certification.

Rep. Dingell announces \$370,059 in federal funding for Willow Run

On Monday, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, MI-12, announced \$370,059 in federal funding for the Willow Run Airport as part of the American Rescue Plan.

This funding will provide economic relief for the airport, covering costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, debt service payments, and efforts to combat the spread of airborne diseases.

"Willow Run Airport is a critical gateway for our local economy and our communities in Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County," said Rep. Dingell. "With this important federal

funding from the American Rescue Plan, Willow Run can ensure the airport is safe for travelers and employees while also improving daily operations throughout the facility.

"We are grateful for the continued support of Congresswoman Debbie Dingell," said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Chad Newton. "As a corporate, cargo, and general aviation facility, Willow Run Airport has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding we will receive under the American Rescue Plan will help us meet our most immediate

needs, including operating expenses and debt service payments."

In April, the Willow Run Airport received \$15 million in federal funding to improve

the airport's runway by reconstructing the pavement of Runway 9/27 to meet Federal Aviation Administration standards.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, July 19 – Van Buren Township work/study session at 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, July 20 – Van Buren Township regular meeting at 6 p.m.

- Wednesday, July 21 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

- Monday, July 26 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education meeting canceled.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Mask mandates left up to individual school districts

At Monday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, School Supt. Pete Kudlak said the CDC recommends that vaccinated students and staff not have to wear masks. He said the Michigan Dept. of Health recommends the same and has no mandates.

Supt. Kudlak said the decision on whether to mandate masks in the schools this fall is up to the districts. He said the situation has been knocked around with other superintendents in the state and they wish they would just be told what to do. Instead, they have to make their own decisions and it's a hot topic with parents.

He said the new survey he will send to parents will ask: if masks are mandated for K-12, what is your preference for your student – in-person or remote? He said later on in August people will have to choose an option.

Treasurer Simone Pinter said COVID is still here and parents should send their students to school in a mask. "There has to be a set plan that we go with," she said, adding if everyone wore masks last year the district wouldn't have been shut down for spikes and then opened up again.

Kudlak said this year things have changed since masks are optional and if they have to shut down for COVID they will use up snow days and then have to make up the other days missed.

The district will have to decide soon what it is going to do about masks.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

During the zoom Belleville City Council meeting on July 6, City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson disappeared from the screen for a few minutes and then explained. He said someone came to the police department window and he had to get up to talk to the person. He held up a ring and said the person had found the ring behind Egan's Pub and wanted to turn it in so the owner could be found.

"So that's where it went," joked Councilman Ken Voigt, pretending to recognize the ring by zoom.

I was set for three meetings last Thursday: one in-person at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Planning Commission, one 6 p.m. in-person at Keystone Charter Academy school board, and a maybe 7 p.m. meeting in person at Sumpter Planning Commission. By mid afternoon I had learned all three had been canceled. No meetings at all.

The Belleville Planning Commission hadn't met at all since December and members told me they were looking forward to an in-person meeting. But, just two days earlier, the Belleville City Council informally decided not to meet in person yet and that meant all the boards and commissions, as well. The council will talk about it at the next meeting and maybe the next two meetings.

Keystone Board president Vesta Losen called to tell me that she wasn't going to have a quorum for her meeting because some members were out of state on vacation. The Keystone board has five members.

Then, I called Sumpter Township Hall and found that the planning commission



wasn't going to meet that evening, either. The commission meets the required four times a year and then at other times on the second Tuesday that they have business to tend to. Obviously, no business this month.

At the end of the May 26 Van Buren Township Planning Commission meeting, Dan Power, Director of Planning and Economic Development, gave a report on developments in process in the township. He said as far as residential projects there are several individual homes being built, along with Victoria Estates Phase 2 with 67 single-family homes and Cobblestone Creek, Phase 3, with 69 single-family homes.

He said developer Scott Jones still hasn't submitted a site plan request for his proposed housing development on East Huron River Drive next to Sandy's Marina.

Barber Bob's former location across Main Street from our offices has been sold to be used as a hair salon.

The big flag in front of Camping World was taken down last week and one of our readers came in last Thursday to report it. She said she can see it from Rawsonville Road on the I-94 freeway and it makes her heart sing to see it. I called Camping World and they told me it was taken down for repairs and now is back in place.

Camping World is located on the I-94

North Service Drive between Belleville and Haggerty roads.

We received a call last Thursday from a man who saw an American flag on the corner of Willis and Elwell roads in Sumpter Township that says "F--- Biden." The man said it blew his mind, even though he knows there is freedom of speech. He said he thought it wasn't a good thing for kids on the school buses going by to see. He said his wife called the township and they said they didn't know anything about it and didn't know if there were any laws against it. He said his wife called again and they acted as if she hadn't called before. It is frustrating, he said.

Many subscribers in the 48111 zip code have called us to say they haven't received their *Independents* from last Thursday, July 8. We mailed them July 8 and the local subscribers usually get them the next day because they are kept in the Belleville Post Office for delivery. We believe they were mistakenly sent to Detroit first last week and so who knows when they will be delivered. If you get desperate, remember we have extra copies at the office that you can pick up.





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VBT to host in-person Sumpter Road Corridor workshop at fire station

news release

Many have spoken, but many more have yet to make their voices heard about their vision for the Sumpter Road Corridor. Van Buren Township has started a planning process that will envision the future of the Sumpter Road Corridor between the city limits of the City of Belleville and Bemis Road.

“Our residents have clear and distinct concerns about what happens north and south of Hull Road,” said Supervisor Kevin McNamara. “This exercise is intended to address those concerns and provide guidance for planning our future for the area.”

On April 28, the township Planning Commission held an introductory webinar to collect feedback from area residents and other stakeholders. A variety of ideas were shared, but a consistent theme emerged in comments received following the introductory webinar.

“The township hears the consistent feedback we’ve received so far in support of preserving the area’s rural character, south of Hull Road in particular,” said Planning and Economic Development Director Dan Power. “By having an on-site, outdoor meeting opportunity, we want to make sure all voices are heard as part of shaping the future and setting expectations both north and south of Hull Road.”

In conjunction with consultants and McKenna Associates the township will host an in-person, outdoor workshop on July 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1, located at the Sumpter/Hull intersection. This workshop will employ a variety of engagement and focus-group methods, including surveys, collaborative design, and mapping exercises. Stakeholders will strive to develop a consensus around a vision and preferred future land uses for the corridor. These future land uses will be the guiding force behind future rezoning and development proposals.

In preparation for the workshop, township planners are taking a deeper dive in the area, walking the stretch of Sumpter Road between the Belleville city limits and Hull Road to gather data on existing businesses, homes and other buildings and their parking areas and driveways, evaluating utilities and environmental features, and observing traffic and circulation patterns in the area.

The township completed a full update to its Master Plan in 2020, but also committed to revisiting the Sumpter Road corridor in greater detail as part of this Master Plan update. North of Hull Road, the township’s current Master Plan calls for Commercial Future Land Use to Spencer Avenue and Mixed-Use Future Land Use north of Spencer Avenue. The township seeks direction on whether the boundaries for “commercial” planned land use should change and what “mixed use” should look like. South of Hull Road, the township

seeks consensus on whether or not people want to see a different future along Sumpter Road south of Hull other than primarily as a rural residential corridor.

Ahead of the workshop, residents are encouraged to share feedback in writing. Share your thoughts by contacting Director Power via email at dpower@vanburen-mi.org or call (734) 699-8900, ext. 9392. Power said all feedback collected will be put into analysis and used as recommendations for the project.

More information and future updates will be posted at vanburenmi.org/SumpterRoadCorridor

Letters

Thank you to Jean Hall, Angela Moore

To the editor:

We would like to thank Mrs. Jean Hall, Mary Kay consultant, for her generous donation to our funeral home and to Angela Moore, also a Mary Kay consultant who took the time to make the delivery to us. We are very grateful.

Thank you,
The staff of the Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, Belleville

St. Paul Church looking for Applefest vendors

To the editor:

St. Paul Lutheran Church - New Boston, is looking for craft vendors for Applefest weekend, Oct. 2 and 3. If interested in renting a table and/or getting additional information, please call our church office at (734) 753-9048.

Cathy Szyndlar
St. Paul Lutheran Church – New Boston



July 2 – Linda Anne Mitchell
July 5 – Joe Sixbey
July 12 – Alex Armstrong
July 18 – Annette Temple
July 19 – Shae Millard

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

Obituaries



Jessica Lynn Kauffman

JESSICA LYNN KAUFFMAN

(October 29, 1977 - July 11, 2021)

Jessica Lynn Kauffman, age 43, lifelong resident of Belleville, MI, passed away Monday, July 11, 2021 at Ascension Hospital in Macomb, MI. She was born on October 29, 1977, in Petosky, MI to Gloria Jean Kauffman. Jessica enjoyed gardening, fishing and loved being in social groups and was a true "people" person. She adored and cherished her cats "Rocket" and "Pepper."

Jessica is survived by her mother, Gloria Jean, and Ray O'Hearn of Warren, MI, and was preceded in death by her grandparents, Joseph and Margaret Kauffman.

Cremation rites have been accorded with the David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. A private Celebration of Life is to be held at a later date in Grayling, MI. Interment will be in Otsego Twp. Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Easter Seals or the Spinal Bifida Association of Michigan and would be appreciated.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

City Council

(continued from page 1)

the next meeting or the one after that, she said, and no motion was necessary now. Councilwoman Kelly Bates spoke strongly against in-person meetings, saying the Delta variant is heading their way and not everyone is vaccinated and the council has the option to be on zoom until the end of the year. Other council members said they don't want to rush into anything, but agreed that it's easier to build relationships with people in person. A hybrid procedure was discussed with some attending virtually;

- Approved accounts payable in the amount of \$214,835.59 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Adica Fleet Services, \$2,190.17 for sweeper repair; to Atchinson Ford, \$519.04 to replace the fan assembly in police car #218; to Belle Tire, \$866 to replace tire in police car #218 (vehicle 218 had two nails in one of the tires that required full replacement of the tire); to Huron River Watershed, \$750 for storm water permit; to Livonia P.D., \$1,500 as budgeted for membership in Western Wayne County Mobile Field Force Team (crowd control team for potential protests or demonstrations); to Osborne Concrete, \$750 for cemetery footings; and to Tri-County Water & Sewer, \$877 to repair bathrooms at Horizon, Village, and Victory parks;

- Heard Fire Chief Brian Loranger say the July 3 fireworks on the lake put on by the BYC were a great success and there were

(continued on page 15)

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Obituaries



Michael Eugene
Armstrong

MICHAEL EUGENE ARMSTRONG
 (August 5, 1949 - June 16, 2021)

Michael Eugene Armstrong, of Belleville, MI, age 71, passed away Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born August 5, 1949, in Detroit, MI, son of Marion Eugene and Vera Jane (McGhee) Armstrong. Michael moved to Mesick, Michigan for years and returned to Belleville in 2016. He enjoyed motorcycles in his younger years. Michael was a gun enthusiast and was a lifetime member of the NRA. He had a passion for fishing and computer gaming. Most of all, Michael loved his family, friends, and his cat "Nosey Rosey."

Michael is survived by his loving wife Sandra Armstrong (Richards) of Belleville; parents Louis and Jane Boscacci; 6 children: Michael Eugene Armstrong of Belleville, MI, Allen Dean Armstrong of Ionia, MI, Deborah Kay (James) Carey, Christine May Porterfield, Jackline Fay (Jerry Jenkins) Updyke, all of Belleville, MI, and Denise May (Larry) Sturza of Whitmore Lake, MI; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 10 siblings: Kathleen (Thomas) Mayer, Jim Mitulski, Michelle (Louis), Patrick (Julia) Armstrong, Jack Armstrong, Diana (Robert) Alessi, Lynn Conway, Debbie (Greg) Foley, Jerry (Jana) Haverty and Katie (Joseph) Cocking; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Marion and Dolores Armstrong and his son-in-law Steven Porterfield.

Visitation was Saturday, June 19, 2021, from noon until 6 PM, with a 6 PM funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Bishop Wesley Starr officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Hospice of Ann Arbor and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

COVID-19 deaths in 48111 remain at 74, positive tests at 3,508

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code remained at 74 as of Monday, July 12, according to the Wayne County Health Department. It has been at this number since June 20.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 3,508 on Monday, July 12, up from 3,496 the previous Monday, July 5.

On Monday, July 12, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 2,350 positive cases, 42 deaths; city of Belleville, 491 positive cases, 21 deaths; and Sumpter Township 667 positive cases, 11 deaths.



Rodney Raymond Sopha

RODNEY RAYMOND SOPHA
 (June 17, 1946 - July 07, 2021)

Rodney Raymond Sopha, age 75, long-time Belleville area resident, passed away peacefully in his sleep Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at Foundation Park Care Center, Toledo, OH. He was born June 17, 1946, in Detroit, MI, son of Raymond Clarence & Alice Cecily Sopha. Rodney graduated Cody High School and Nebraska Trade School with an Electrical Master's License. He began his career in Nebraska working for a Christian Bible Camp. Returning to Michigan, he worked at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, MI, in electrical maintenance. He also worked for Van Buren Township as an Electrical Inspector. He finished his career as an Electrician with Ford Motor Company. Rodney retired from the Rawsonville Ford Plant after many years of loyal service.

Rodney is survived by his former spouse Ruby Sopha of Belleville, MI; two sisters Susan (Alan) Czaplicki of Van Buren Township, MI and Nancy Snyder of Eastpointe, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, also a brother, Timothy, in infancy.

Graveside services will be held at a future date, for the immediate family, at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI. Arrangements entrusted to David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Patrick John Vallance

PATRICK JOHN VALLANCE
 (January 11, 1989 – July 3, 2021)

Patrick John Vallance, age 32, of Sumpter Township, MI, passed away suddenly, Saturday, July 3, 2021. He was born January 11, 1989, in Wayne, MI, son of Douglas William & Holly Kay (Radloff) Vallance. He graduated from Lincoln High School class of 2007 and attended University of Michigan, Dearborn, for a few years, studying business. He enjoyed playing hockey and loved to travel, especially to Alabama to visit his Granny.

Pat is survived by his father Doug (Cindy Kahle) Vallance of Belleville, MI; mother Holly Gilbeau of Detroit, MI; grandparents Christine & James Patterson of Lester, AL; sister Jackie Vallance of Ypsilanti Township, MI; also numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Visitation was 12 Noon until 3 PM Sunday, July 11, 2021, with a 3 PM Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Gordon Moore officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Mooseheart, Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, would be appreciated.

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Obituaries



Fred Viers

FRED VIERS

(November 11, 1930 - July 9, 2021)

Fred Viers, age 90, long-time Belleville area resident, passed away Friday, July 9, 2021, at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born November 11, 1930, in Haysi Dickens, Virginia, son of Taylor & Mollie (Counts) Viers. Fred proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He was a dedicated member of the Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church, Canton, MI. Fred retired from General Motors after many years of loyal service. He enjoyed fishing and small game hunting, especially rabbits. He also enjoyed watching sports: football, baseball and always rooted for the Tigers!

Fred is survived by two sons: Craig Steven Viers of Belleville, MI and Derrick (Lynn) Kirby of Saline, MI; 5 grandchildren: Brandi (Bobby) Sims, Kami Viers, Brett (Amanda) Viers, Jeff (Denise) Kirby and Shelly (Steve) Mareno; a sister Kelsey Poe of Belleville, MI; brother L.C. Viers of Belleville, MI; 4 great-grandchildren: Bryce Viers, Kyle & Claire Kirby and Matthew Mareno; also, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Fred was preceded in death by his parents, wife Betty Ruth (Kirby) Viers on July 10, 2000, also a son Scot Alan Viers.

Visitation was 5-8 PM Tuesday and 10-11 AM Wednesday, July 14, 2021, with an 11 AM Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Interment was at Washtenong Memorial Park, Ann Arbor, MI.

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Marilyn Patricia Nordstrom

MARILYN PATRICIA NORDSTROM

(February 10, 1939 - July 10, 2021)

Marilyn Patricia Nordstrom, age 82, of Sumpter Township, MI, passed away late Saturday, July 10, 2021, at her home, surrounded by family. She was born February 10, 1939, in Detroit, MI, daughter of Donald Charles & Mabel Elodie (Lindstrom) Gatecliff. Marilyn was a baker at Awrey's Bakery, Livonia, MI, for many years. She was also the housekeeping manager for the Ann Arbor Marriott, and several Belleville hotels. She was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Belleville, MI. She enjoyed watching old Western movies and trips to the casinos. Most of all, she loved time with her family, especially her grandkids.

Mrs. Nordstrom is survived by three children: James (Suzelle) Nordstrom and Thomas Nordstrom, all of Belleville, MI, and Delaine (Steve) Patrias of Taylor, MI; two grandkids James and Mykayla; 4 great-grandkids James "Bubba", Megan, Kayler and Abigail; one great-granddaughter Layla; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents; husband James Robert Nordstrom (2014); also her siblings: Shirley, Ken, Wayne, Mavis, Don and Jerry. She was the last of seven siblings.

Visitation was Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. with a 2 p.m. funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Pastor James Frey officiated. Interment followed at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI. www.davidcbrownfh.com



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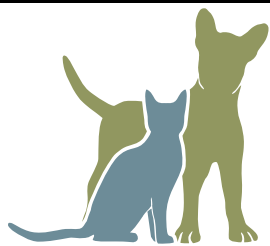
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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman
Belleville City Councilman Ken Voigt was at Monday's Farmers' Market distributing the banners of Belleville High School graduates that had hung on lamp posts earlier this summer. A new batch currently is being displayed on the lamp posts.

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Belleville High School graduate Garrett Meggison has signed to play baseball at Macomb Community College.

Leslie Scott named to dean's list at Lake Superior State Univ.

Leslie Scott of Belleville has been included on the dean's list for the Spring 2021 semester at Lake Superior State University. To make the dean's list, students must achieve a minimum of a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Scott is majoring in nursing at LSSU. She is the daughter of Jennifer Scott of Belleville and Christopher Scott of Milan.

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Correction: Dr. Xuede Qian wrote the book on landfill construction

In last week's front-page story on the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) public meeting, we incorrectly identified the consultant for Van Buren Township's toxic landfill who "wrote the textbook on landfills." Christine Matlock of EGLE finally returned our inquiry with this information:

"Dr. Xuede Qian, P.E., Ph.D. is a geotechnical engineer expert that works for the Material Management Division of EGLE. He has over 30 years of experience and has taught at both University of Michigan and Michigan State University. The book that he co-authored is below.

Qian, X., Koerner, R. M., and Gray, D. H. (2002) *Geotechnical Aspects of Landfill Design and Construction*, Prentice Hall

We apologize for identifying the wrong consultant.

Rosemary Oztman, editor

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Democrats called white Republicans "radicals," and lynched them along with blacks.

The Tuskegee Institute recorded that from 1882-1968, 3,446 blacks and 1,297 whites were lynched - the whites being "radical" Republicans who were caught registering freed blacks to vote.



People need a history lesson and not 1619 and CRT. Dr. Mario DiPonio presented me with the Historian Award at Honors Convocation, WMHS '66. I can assure you, I'm schooled.

After the Civil War, blacks were given Monrovia Liberia birthright or 40 acres and a mule. They had a choice, some stayed with their plantation as free men. Fact, I was not taught critical race theory or Project 1619, the rewriting of history. We pay taxes for our children, not teachers and certainly not the teachers' unions! IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?



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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, July 15** – Motor City Soul is featured at the 7 p.m. free Music Lakeside concert at Horizon Park in Belleville. Rhonda Dutton of the Belleville Council for the Arts will exhibit her art.

• **Friday, July 16** – Car show every Friday, 5-8 p.m., at Armstrong's Funland, Belleville Road, north of Tyler.

• **Friday, July 16** – Free drive-in movie with free popcorn and lemonade at sunset at Church of God on Hull Road, just east of the Van Buren Township Fire Station. Today the show is "Play the Flute" and sunset is 9:08 p.m. In the event of rain, show will go on at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron

River Dr.

• **Saturday, July 17** – Shark Party at the Belleville Area District Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. No registration. Join in for crafts, prizes, reffle, and photo booths.

• **Saturday, July 17** – Veterans and their spouses are welcome for a free lunch including subs, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and dessert at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

• **Monday, July 19** – Belleville Farmers' Market, 4-7:30 p.m., Fourth Street Place. Also, Classic Car Show on Main Street, 6-9 p.m.

• **Wednesday, July 21** – Motor City Soul will present a free 7 p.m. concert at Quirk Park behind the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, sponsored by VBT Parks & Rec. The music is a mix of Motown, Soul, R&B, Funk, Oldies, modern Pop and Rock.

• **Thursday, July 22** – Outdoor Story Time at 5:30 p.m. under the pavilion at Horizon Park. Put on by the Belleville Area District Library.

• **Thursday, July 22** – In-person coffee hour with State Rep. Ranjeev Puri, D-Canton, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the gazebo at Canton's Heritage Park, behind the Canton Township Police Department and Canton Township Administration Building, located off Veterans Way.

• **Thursday, July 22** – Magic Bus is featured at the 7 p.m. free Music Lakeside concert at Horizon Park in Belleville. Ed Wood of the Belleville Council for the Arts will display his art.

Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff under fire for use of campaign funds

Over the weekend local and national stories were published about Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff who admitted spending \$4,500 in campaign funds for an open bar at the Belleville Yacht Club for his daughter's wedding.

Burcroff's attorney Daniel Wholihan told WXYZ that the wedding was related to the campaign because many of those attending the wedding had also worked for Burcroff.

Wholihan added that while using the money for the wedding created "poor optics," he did not believe it constituted an improper use of funds.

The attorney said Burcroff had repaid his campaign fund the \$4,500 with personal funds, as well as the almost \$15,000 in donations he paid to his church from his campaign funds.

On Saturday, *Newsweek* reported that the wedding was not the first time Burcroff has faced scrutiny for questionable spending.

Stories started at local ABC affiliate WXYZ, who first reported a series of questionable payments made by the mayor in December, which included more than \$6,000 worth of payments made to his children, brother, and son-in-law for office rent and campaign office maintenance.

Earlier this year, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson launched an investigation into Burcroff's finances following reports that the mayor has improperly used funds to pay family members, yacht club memberships, and to purchase a Jeep Wrangler. It is illegal to use campaign spending for personal use in Michigan.

WXYZ also uncovered \$3,800 paid in membership fees to the Belleville Yacht Club, where his daughter's wedding was held.

The mayor, who said earlier this year he will not be seeking re-election, remains under investigation by the secretary of state.

Sage Beatty earns B.S. degree from CMU with 4.0 grade point average

Sage Beatty, a 2017 graduate of Belleville High School, has graduated from Central Michigan University with a 4.0 grade point average during the Spring 2021 semester.

Sage has also been named to the President's List, an honor reserved for students who earn a perfect GPA during a given semester.

Sage, 22, is the daughter of Lisa Zander of Ypsilanti and Brian Beatty of Romulus. Her grandparents are Sharon Zander and Jerry Dockter, both of Belleville.

Her goal is to continue her education to become a doctor.

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– Yogi Berra



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– Ronald Reagan

City Council

(continued from page 6)

lots of boats on the lake watching it;

• Heard Robinson report that the “rather abrupt resignation” of the clerk puts a strain on administration, but police records clerk Briana Hootman will fill in and get the minutes to the council. Hootman also was filling in after the resignation of Carol Thompson from the DDA;

• Heard Robinson report that the clock is ticking for any charter amendment to be put on this year’s ballot;

• Heard Councilman Voigt report Lake Fest was an awesome event with a great turnout. It was a great hometown event and he has heard nothing but good comments about it, he said;

• Heard Councilwoman Bates say she has always said Belleville is like a Hallmark movie. Everyone cares about this town and wants to do the best for it and there’s beginning to be a buzz about the city. She said the free concerts in the park have people dancing in the street. “Hold onto

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your hat. Good things are happening in Belleville,” she said;

• Heard Councilman Fielder say during Lake Fest people were in the Kids Zone at Third and Main carrying BORA cups with alcoholic drinks in them. Fielder also complained that he tried to get through to DPW Director Rutherford on the phone and couldn’t. He said the city needs to reprogram its telephone prompts again because it causes frustration for people; and

• Heard Mayor Conley say the city team came in third in the dragon boat race and, “I think we were great.” She said new

Court Watching:

Probable cause conference set July 21 for two co-defendants

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The probable cause conferences for two co-defendants on charges of pushing their way into a mobile home on June 24 and beating up a Van Buren Township resident and stealing his phone was set for July 21 at 34th District Court.

Jesse Duane Stamper, 28, of Ypsilanti was present by zoom from the Wayne County Jail for their July 7 court session before Judge Lisa Martin. He was in custody on a hold on another warrant.

Hunter David Range, 31, of Ypsilanti, was free and attended via zoom from his car.

The two are charged with first-degree home invasion, unarmed robbery, and aggravated assault. They were arraigned June 27 and personal bond was set at \$250,000 each and they must wear GPS tethers.

A warrant is out for the arrest of a third man, Derrick Wayne Houchlei, 41, of Brockway, MI, on the same charges.

Sonya Javah Moore

The probable cause conference for Sonya Javah Moore, 39, of Van Buren Township was before Judge Martin on July 7. Moore is charged with assault with intent to murder, assault, and armed robbery, plus three counts of felony firearm on June 24 at O’Reilly’s distribution center on Haggerty Road in Van Buren Township. Police said she was shooting at an employee.

Deputy Administrator McLean joined the city’s dragon boat team and they should see about getting a dragon boat once a month to practice on. She said the city couldn’t have asked for a better event than the Lake Fest and it was really well done. She said the DORA cups are popular on Thursdays for Music Lakeside. She said she saw the best use of the Fourth Street Square during the festival. Mayor Conley said the electrical installed at Horizon Park was just a box and she thought it would be on a light post. She said it looks terrible, like an afterthought, and someone should paint it.

She was being held on \$25,000 cash bond and appeared before Judge Martin via zoom from the Wayne County Jail.

Defense attorney Kim Michon said she has no digital discovery, surveillance tape or police body cam, and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Elisabeth Moore said she would contact the officer in charge so it can be sent to her.

Judge Martin set the live preliminary exam for 12:30 p.m., Sept. 22.

Michon asked for pretrial services to review the bond so it can be addressed at the preliminary exam.

Judge Martin noted that Moore had a driving while license suspended charge from January and so she was scheduled for a pretrial before Magistrate Al Hindman on Aug. 23. Also, Judge Martin said records show she owes \$2,217 to the court on other charges.

Kevin Joseph Bonam

Kevin Joseph Bonam, 43, of Van Buren Township was before Judge Martin on July 7 for his probable cause conference on charges of first-degree home invasion, malicious destruction of property, and two counts of aggravated assault on Sept. 22, 2020 in Van Buren Township.

Defense attorney Cyril Hall said he was waiting for the transcript of the co-

(continued on page 16)



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Court watching

(continued from page 15)

defendant's preliminary exam where most of the charges were dismissed. He referred to co-defendant Lillie Lee Heard, whose first-degree home invasion charge was dismissed by Judge Tina Brooks Green at her preliminary exam and an Aug. 8 live bench trial was set on the remaining misdemeanors. Another misdemeanor charge of assault on the same day was dismissed.

Hall asked for the probable cause conference to be adjourned until he got the transcript to study and then he will set the preliminary exam.

Judge Martin adjourned the probable cause conference until July 28.

Elijah Kareemali Pearl

Elijah Kareemali Pearl, 22, of Dearborn Heights and previously of Parkwood Apartments, waived his preliminary exam

and Judge Martin bound him over to circuit court for a July 21 arraignment on the information.

Pearl is charged with embezzlement by an agent or trustee of between \$1,000 and \$20,000 on Jan. 29, 2020 in Van Buren Township.

Lamarcus Antwan Anderson-Campbell

The charge of first-degree retail fraud on March 6 in Van Buren Township was dismissed by Judge Martin on July 7 when the necessary witness for his preliminary exam was not available.

Gene Laroy Carrier, Jr.

Instead of going forward with his live preliminary exam on July 7, Gene Laroy Carrier, Jr., 59, of Belleville, waived the exam and Judge Martin bound him over to circuit court for a July 21 arraignment on the information.

Carrier is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) on

Oct. 27 in the city of Belleville.

Ellis Edward Shropshire

Ellis Edward Shropshire, 21, of Romulus was charged with carrying a concealed weapon and driving while license suspended on Feb. 23 in Van Buren Township. At his June 2 probable cause conference before Judge Oakley, Shropshire waived his preliminary exam on the gun charge and his case was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on June 16. The gun board deal his attorney had sought had come through and now his case needed to be at circuit court.

On June 16 he pled guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and the driving while license suspended charge was dismissed. Sentencing was set for July 7.

James Shelby Najmat Almas Blake

James Shelby Najmat Almas Blake of Ypsilanti, was arraigned by video from the Van Buren Township Police Department

on June 4 by Judge Martin on a charge of spraying a self-defense foam device, a high court misdemeanor. Judge Martin set his personal bond at \$3,000 with the stipulation he must not return to the AT&T store or Atchinson Ford, both on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township. His Zoom probable cause conference was set for June 16, before Judge Green. He said he had his own attorney and would not need a court-appointed attorney.

On June 16, his attorney William Glenn said he had discovery on the first case, but not a second case that was filed the previous week. The new charges are malicious destruction of police or fire property and reckless driving on June 1 in Van Buren Township. Judge Green arraigned him on the new charges, set personal bond of \$10,000 and adjourned the probable cause conference on all the charges until June 30. On June 30

(continued on page 17)



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Monday, June 21, 2021 - 7:30 pm VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Due to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services guidelines, the City cannot ensure 6 feet separation between participants in the Chambers of City Hall. As a result, the regular meeting of the City Council was held via ZOOM.

The regular meeting of the Belleville City Council was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Bates	Present
Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Voigt	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

A. Appointments

1) Alternate Member to the Board of Review (BOR)
Mike Renaud, qualified Belleville resident, was presented as a candidate to serve as alternate member to the BOR.

Motion: Motion by Fielder, supported by Bates to appoint Mike Renaud as an alternate member to the Board of Review to serve a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Fielder	Aye
Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

Clerk Chapman informed Mr. Renaud that he would be sworn into office at City Hall.

B. Presentations

1) Service Awards

This item was postponed until Carol Thompson, past DDDA Administrator, is available to attend a meeting.

2) BYC Recognition

Resolution 21-065 was presented to the BYC in recognition and gratitude of their volunteer clean-up efforts.

3) Golf Cart use in Downtown Belleville

Jeremiah Beebe presented a proposal for golf cart use in the City of Belleville. The administration will research the feasibility of golf cart use. No action was taken.

C. Council Follow-Up List

1) Councilmember Bates asked staff to follow up with the County, relative to the recent bridge repair, for consideration of the needed curb repairs.

2) Mayor Conley directed City Manager to advise the County of the upcoming Bridge Walk and to identify the persons who worked on the bridge.

D. Citizens Comments on Non-Agenda Items

1) Citizen Renaud expressed the need for the County's attention to the overgrowth that obstructs the left turn sign on the west side of Huron River Drive.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Motion by Bates, supported by Marcotte to accept the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 7, 2021, Regular Meeting of the City Council
MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, June 7, 2021, with the following corrections:

• Page 3, last paragraph, delete "held in conjunction with Bridge Walk 2021."

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARING – None

7. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A. FYE 2020-21 Budget Amendments

Kelly Howey, Plante Moran, presented this item.

MOTION: Motion by Fielder, supported by Voigt to approve **Resolution 21-058** adopting the FYE 2020-21 Budget Amendments, pursuant to Chapter X, Section 10.7 of the City Charter, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion carried.

B. Deputy Administrator

City Manager Robinson presented Mr. Timothy (Tim) McLean as the candidate selected for Deputy Administrator.

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Bates to approve **Resolution 21-060** authorizing City Manager Robinson to enter into an employment agreement and execute the contract for Deputy Administrator effective July 5, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Fielder	Aye
Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

C. MERS 457B

City Manager Robinson presented this item.

MOTION: Motion by Marcotte, supported by Voigt to approve **Resolution 21-059** adopting the MERS 457 Supplemental Retirement Program for eligible employees, effective July 1, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

D. MERS Retiree Health Funding Vehicle (RHFV)

City Manager Robinson presented this item.

MOTION: Motion by Marcotte, supported by Bates to approve **Resolution 21-061** adopting the MERS Retiree Health Funding Vehicle (RHFV) for eligible employees, effective July 1, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

E. MERS Health Care Savings Program (HCSP)

City Manager Robinson presented this item.

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Fielder to approve **Resolution 21-062** adopting the MERS Health Care Savings Program (HCSP) effective July 1, 2021, for eligible employees.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

F. Town Web Contract Extension

Clerk Chapman presented this item.

Motion: Motion by Marcotte, supported by Fielder to approve **Resolution 21-063** extending the current Town Web contract for one year terminating June 230, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Fielder	Aye
Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

G. Wayne County Commissioners Tampon Tax Resolution

Clerk Chapman presented this item. No action taken.

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to approve **Resolution 21-064** authorizing Accounts

Payable and Departmental Expenditures as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Council Member Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

9. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

• Expressed thanks to the Belleville City Council for supporting all his efforts,
• Looking forward to Lake Fest, and
• Commended DPW for all their hard work in preparation for the Lake Fest.

10. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

• Council Member Bates offered congratulations and thank you to the following:
- Mike Renaud for his appointment to the Board of Review (BOR).
- The BYC for their clean-up efforts downtown.
- Jeremiah Beebe, for his golf cart proposal.
- Tim McLean, Deputy Administrator.
• Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte:
- Welcomed Tim McLean to Belleville.
- Acknowledged that Lake Fest is evidence of Council Member Bates' commitment to Belleville.
- Expressed appreciation for organizations like BYC and Rotary.

• Council Member Fielder:
- Submitted printed material to the Mayor and all council members for review and comment, that can be found in their mailboxes at city hall.
- Expressed that all events for the public announcement board should go to Briana Hootman.
- Inquired about in-person meetings.

• Council Member Voigt expressed appreciation for the partnerships with local businesses, welcomed Tim McLean, Deputy Administrator, and is looking forward to Lake Fest and Music Lakeside.

11. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

• Mayor Conley welcomed Tim McLean, extended an invitation to the Dragon Boat Races, a Lake Fest event, commended Council Member Bates for the fresh start from Strawberry Festival, thanked the BYC, Council of Arts, and is looking forward to Music Lake Side.

12. CITIZENS COMMENTS

• Mike Renaud thanked everyone for their well wishes as he serves on the Board of Review and is looking forward to in-person meetings.

• He also expressed that the motion to increase water rates last meeting should be rescinded and a public hearing called.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, seconded by Marcotte to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Verna Chapman, City Clerk

Approved: July 6, 2021

Published: July 15, 2021



Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

JULY BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) To correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Principal Residence Exemption and Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should contact the Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to July 20, 2021.

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Post: July 1, 2021
Publish: July 8, 2021
July 15, 2021

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES JULY 6, 2021 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID: 990 5176 6685 at 6:00 p.m. Present: Treasurer Budd, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Supervisor McNamara and Clerk Wright. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Parks Director Zaenglein, Public Services Department Director Best, Communication Specialist Albrecht and a maximum audience of eighteen (18).

Treasurer Budd requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Virgie Stoltz who was an active member of the community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Treasurer Budd outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Miller moved; Boynton seconded to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Absent/Excused: McNamara and Wright. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Boynton moved, Martin seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2021, Prepaid List of June 17, 2021, Prepaid List of June 24, 2021, Prepaid list of July 1, 2021, Voucher List of July 6, 2021 and Approval of support for Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization in connection with In Re Purdue Pharma Case No. 19-23649 as it pertains to ongoing Opioid Litigation. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Absent/Excused: McNamara and Wright. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E /

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

Movie in the park has been rescheduled to Friday July 30th at 8:00 p.m. (movie "Finding Nemo" starts at 9:30 p.m.) at Van Buren Park. This free event is open to the public however registration is encouraged at vanburen-mi.org/ movie and the Summer Free Concert Series will be held on Wednesday July 14, 21 and 28th at the Quirk Park Pavilion from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and at WCCC Ted Scott Campus on Haggerty Rd Wednesday August 4 and 11, 2021; and Fire Chief McNally provided an update of the Township's response to the recent flooding and announced the posting of a property damage assessment forms on the Township website.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Miller moved, Boynton seconded to approve approval of the Personal Services Agreement between the Township and Hugo Cardenas Jr. for the Building and Grounds Superintendent and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Absent/Excused: McNamara and Wright. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Member of the public requested the formation of a committee for civic improvements.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved; Boynton seconded to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: July 15, 2021

Court watching

(continued from page 16)

a live preliminary exam was set for Aug. 18.

Keenan Deshon Black

Keenan Deshon Black of Taylor was bound over to circuit court for a June 16 arraignment on the information after a preliminary exam before Judge Oakley on June 2.

Black is charged with embezzlement by an agent or trustee of from \$1,000 to \$20,000 on Jan. 3, 2020. During the exam evidence showed Black was general manager of the Burger King on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township and he is accused of taking over the task of making cash deposits at Fifth Third Bank, but more than \$1,000 was missing.

The district manager testified after he discovered deposit money was missing, he called Black to meet him at the bank and Black agreed but didn't come. He said he went to Black's home and Black said he would follow him to the bank, but he didn't. The district manager testified that Black told him he would pay him if the money wasn't there. That's when he called police. He testified there are videos of Black with the cash.

David Mark Parrott

The jury trial of former 34th District Court Judge David Mark Parrott, 60, of Van Buren Township has been postponed until Sept. 23 at 8:30 a.m. before 35th District Court James A. Plakas because of courtroom coronavirus concerns. Parrott originally had been scheduled for a jury trial on Jan. 14 and 15 on a misdemeanor charge of domestic violence by his live-in girlfriend at their home on Feb. 8, 2020. Then it was postponed until June 10 and then again.

The case was moved from the 34th District Court because that was the defendant's home court. Defense attorney is Heather Nalley and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor is Tara Math Hindelang.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Trust Estate

The Hindy Family Revocable Trust under Trust Agreement dated October 23, 2017, as amended.

TO ALL CREDITORS: The Decedents and Grantors - Bahseh (Buddy) Hindy and Gloria Jean (Jeanne) Hindy, lived at 47 Maple, Belleville, MI 48111. Bahseh Hindy died on March 23, 2019 and Gloria Hindy died on April 17, 2021.

Creditors of the decedents and the trust are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented, within four months of publication of this notice, to the Trustee: Elaine Duerden

9318 Villa Crest

Clarkston, MI 48346

Published July 15, 2021 in the Belleville [Michigan] Independent

Correction: James Holstein free on \$100,000 personal bond

In the Court Watching story on page 3 in the July 8 issue of the *Independent* we reported defendant James Daniel Holstein was free on \$3,000 personal bond. That is incorrect. He is free on \$100,000 personal bond. Also, although his attorney said he is in Iowa, he reportedly has been picking up his kids locally for his visitation. We regret the misinformation.

Holstein's calendar conference has been set for July 27 before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wanda Evans.
Rosemary Oztzman, editor



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE

NOMINATING PETITIONS ARE AVAILABLE

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

Nominating Petitions for the Regular City Election to be held on **Tuesday, November 2, 2021**, may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk, 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan, Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. for the following offices:

Two (2) City Council Members – Term ending 2023

Deadline for submission of Nominating Petitions is Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

Notice is hereby given in conformity with the Michigan Election Law and the City Charter of the City of Belleville, Michigan.

Verna Chapman
City Clerk

Publish: July 8, 2021
July 15, 2021

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On The Web!**
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Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

2149 – alarm, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.
2152 – noise complaint, Elwell Rd./Bemis Rd.
2239 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2244 – noise complaint, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2351 – lost/missing juvenile, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
Also on this week's log are 73 patrol checks, 37 traffic stops, and 10 misc. details.

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Bake Shoppe owner Cheryl Norden wants to remind the community that they haven't closed but simply are on their annual summer vacation until July 25. Call (734) 699-2236.

Moe's Farm at 20684 Sumpter Road just south of the Sumpter Fire Hall is open for another summer offering seasonable vegetables, including red potatoes, green beans, cucumbers and squash. Corn is close and should be in any day, according to Mary Johnson. The family-owned farm is open

seven days and has been growing all its produce on site since 1941. Visit them on Facebook at Moe's Farm.

Willis Baptist Church and Pastor Jim McKinnies is inviting all first-to-eighth-grade children to join the fun and activities at Neighborhood Bible Time, getting underway the week of July 19-23 at the church located at 8687 Bunton Rd. in Willis. Children will enjoy cookies, drinks, and take part in daily competitions, games, and will earn an award ribbon. The free program will be held from 1:30 until 4:30 p.m. each day and transportation is available. Call (734) 461-0352 to learn more and visit www.willisbaptist.org. Walk-in registration can be made in person a half-hour prior to the start time of each day. See their ad in today's paper.

Music Lakeside is scheduled for tonight at Horizon Park, from 7 to 9 p.m. featuring Motor City Soul. Visit www.musiclakeside.com. In case of rain, the concert will move indoors to the Belleville First United Methodist Church on Charles Street. The concert is free and food trucks will be on hand.

Pinnacle Home Health Care is a local company offering assisted living services in the privacy of your own home. Client services include personal care and mobile assistance, medication management, meal preparation, fall-prevention consulting, escorting to doctor appointments, and much more. Call owner Valerie Nicholson at (313) 358-4883 and be sure to see their ad in today's paper.

The Belleville DDA First Wednesday concert and food truck event that was cancelled because of the weather on July 7 at Fourth Street Square is rescheduled for July 14, also weather-permitting. Although this newspaper officially is dated every Thursday, it does arrive from the printers in the afternoon on Wednesday here at the office. The concert and food event will also be held on Aug. 4, and Sept. 1. Watch this column for the details and offerings for later this month.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.

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2021 Following CDC Guidelines

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Jessica JONES REAL ESTATE **bacc**
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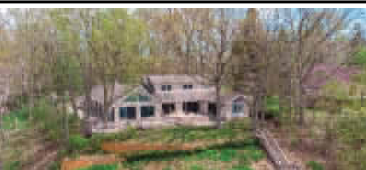
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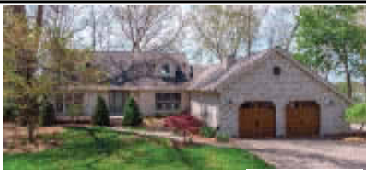
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40425 HARRIS, SUMPTER TWP
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12445 JAMES, CARLETON
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44194 ROBSON, VAN BUREN .81 AC \$44,000

00000 SUMPTER 243X687 3.63 AC \$40,000

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25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000

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